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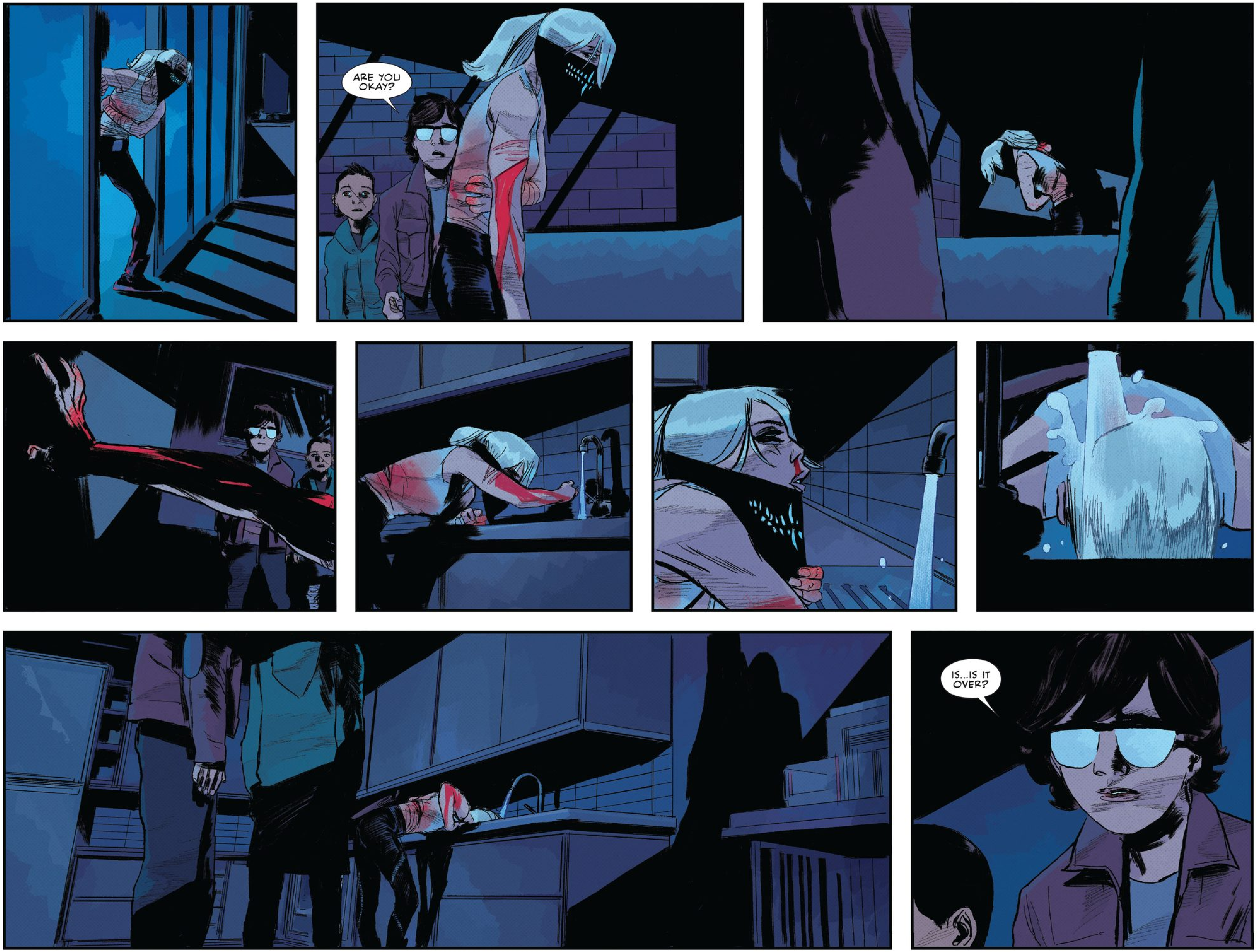
JAMES TYNION IV

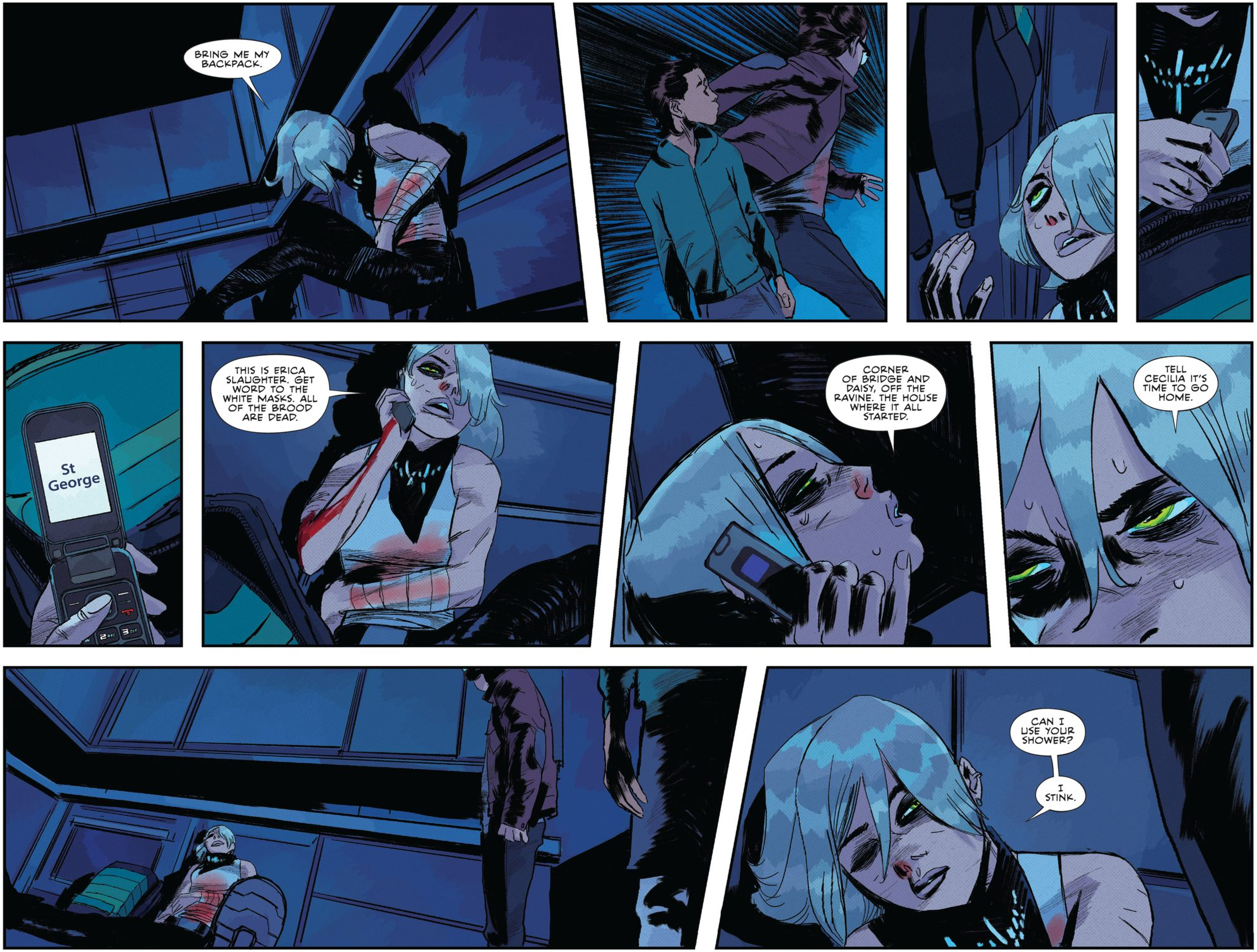
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

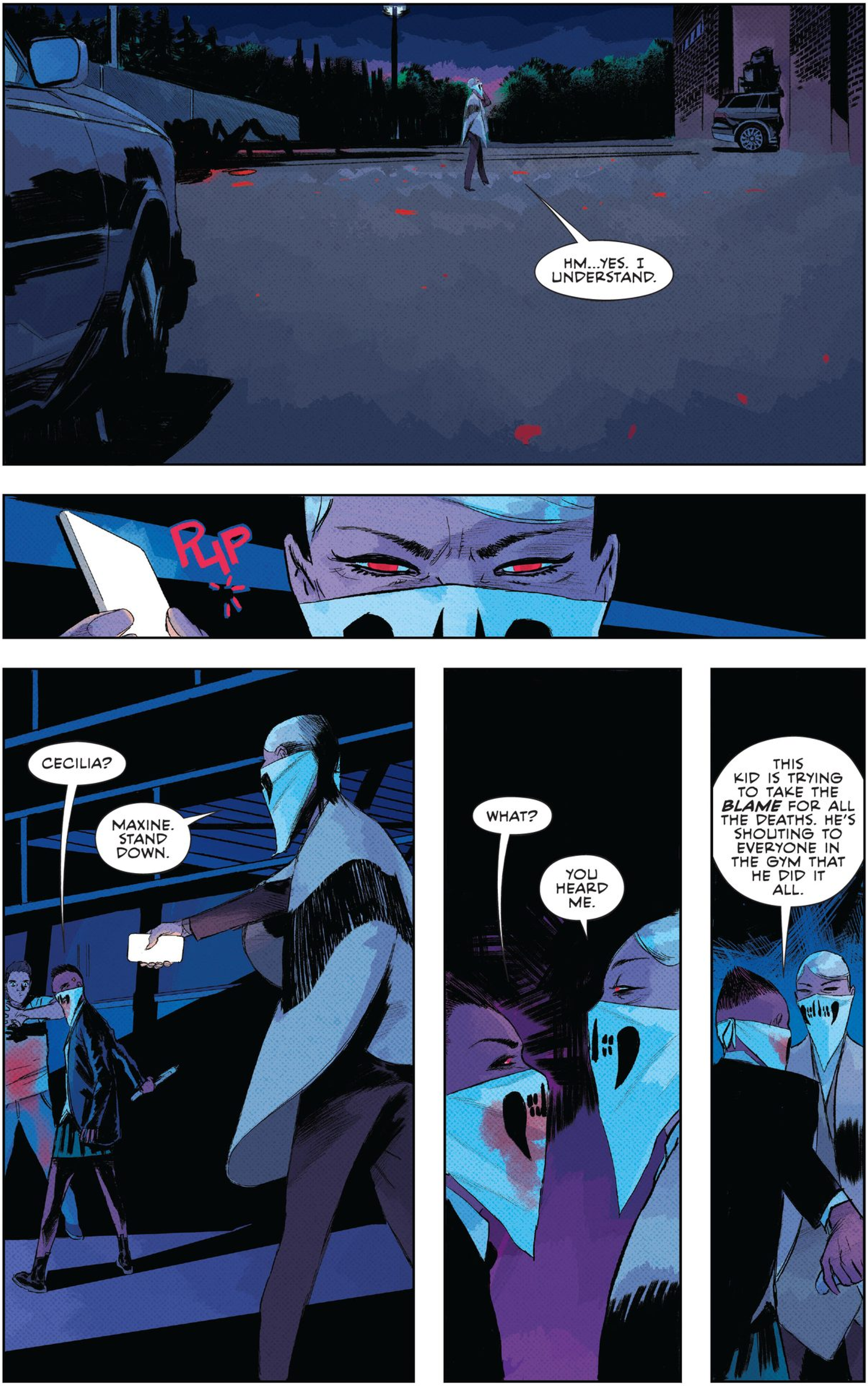
MIQUEL MUERTO

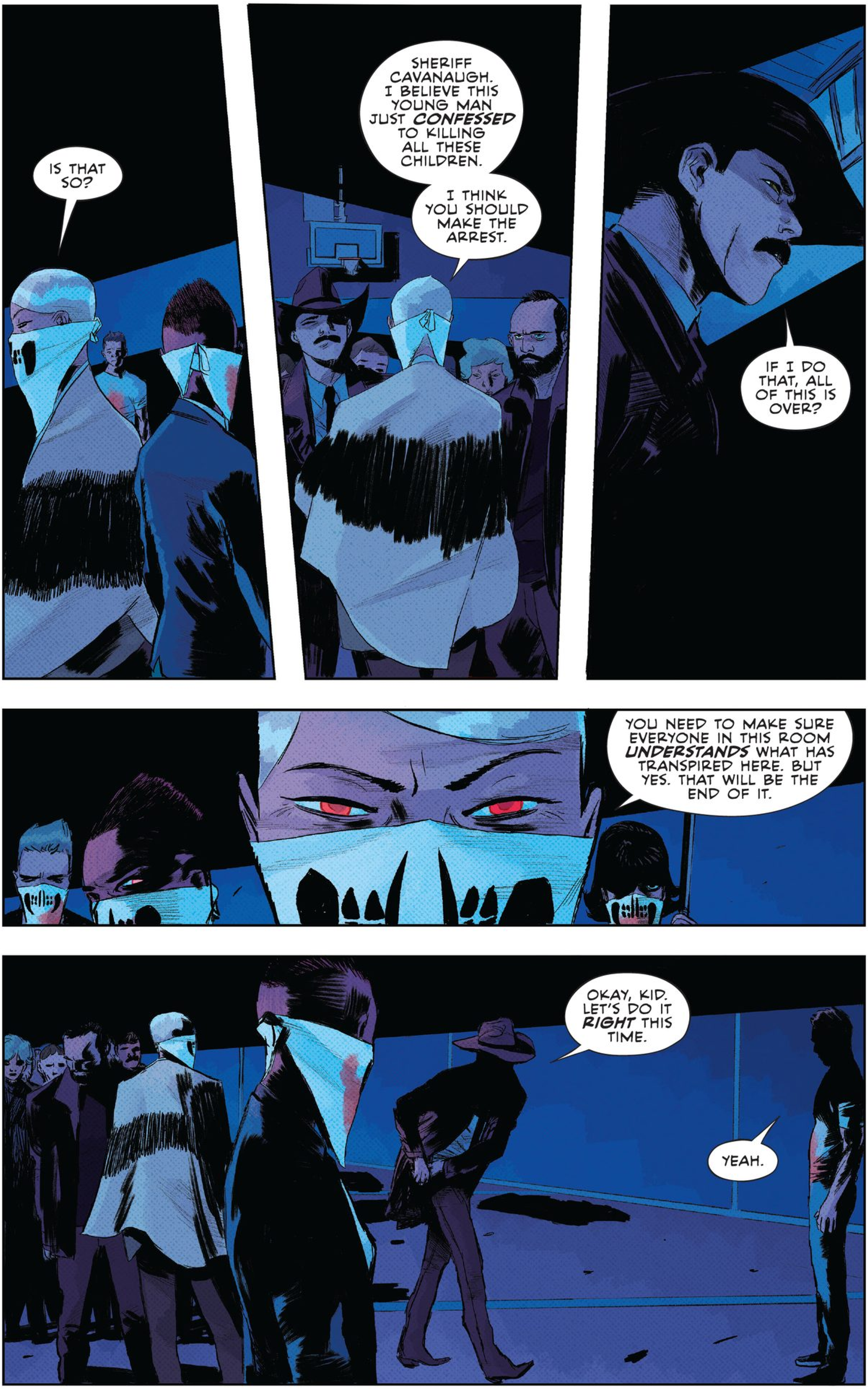
Nº 15

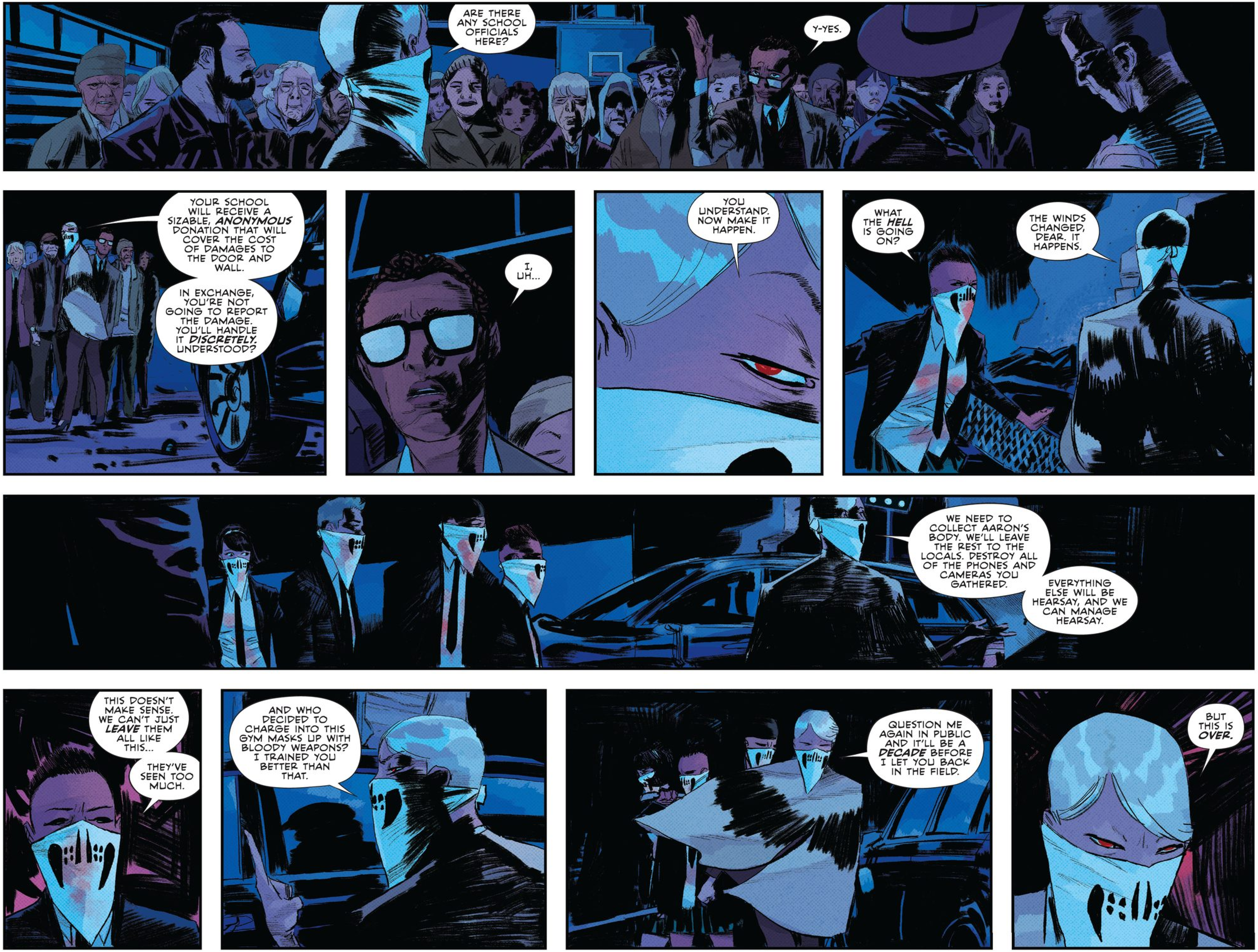
SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™


ARE YOU OKAY?
IS...IS IT OVER?

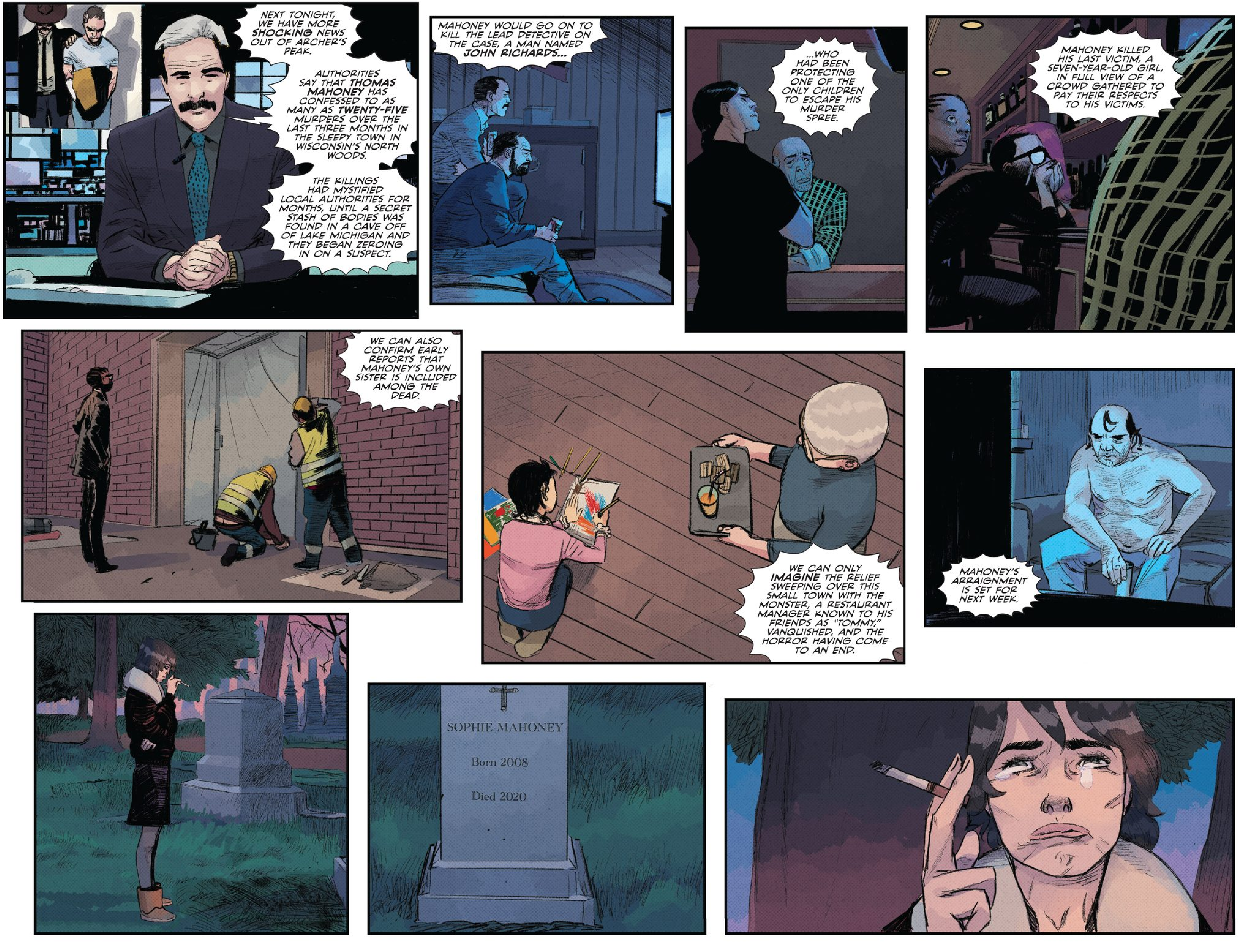

BRING ME MY BACKPACK.
St George
THIS IS ERICA SLAUGHTER. GET WORD TO THE WHITE MASKS. ALL OF THE BROOD ARE DEAD.
CORNER OF BRIDGE AND DAISY, OFF THE RAVINE. THE HOUSE WHERE IT ALL STARTED.
TELL CECILIA IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
CAN I USE YOUR SHOWER?
I STINK.

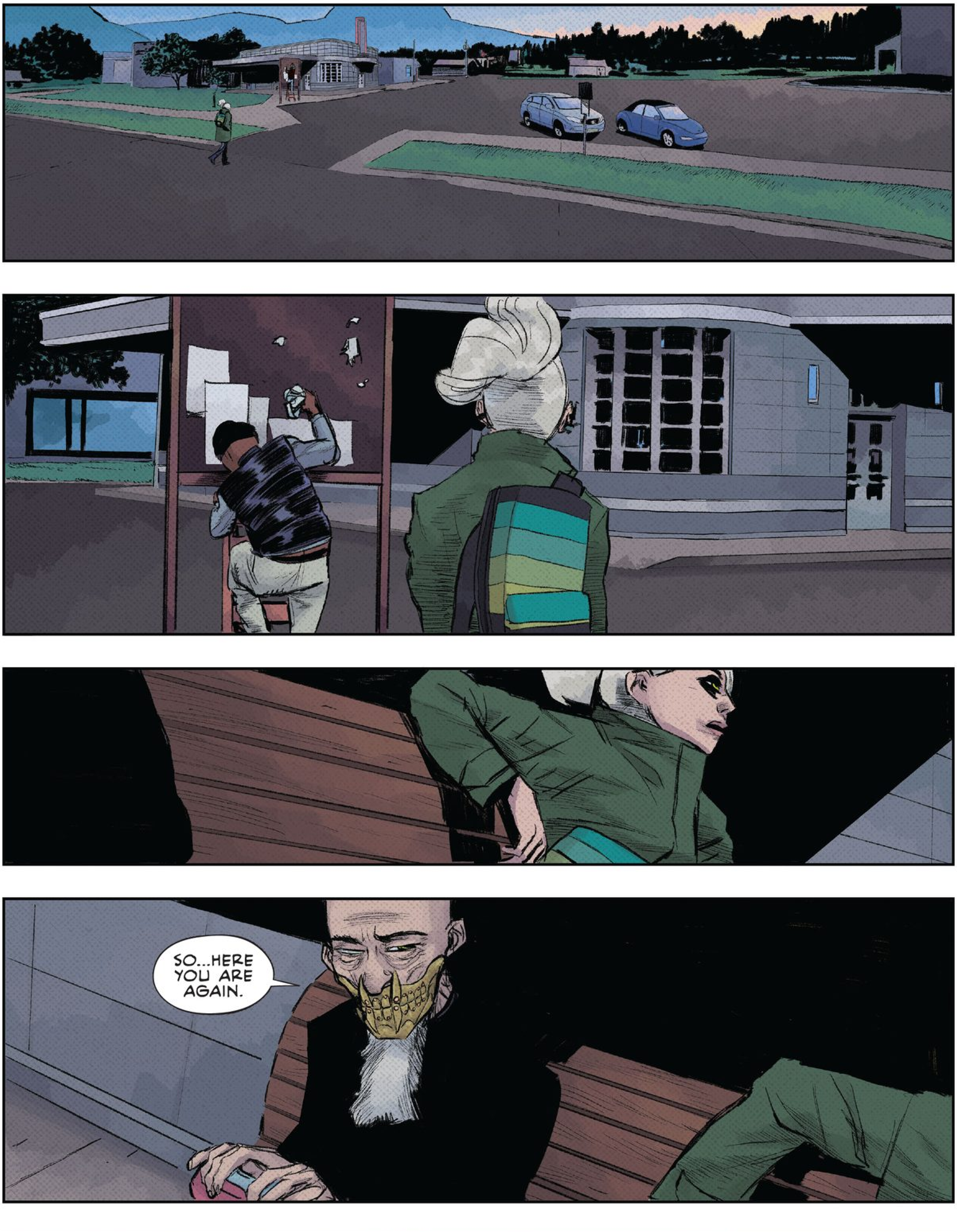

HM...YES. I UNDERSTAND.
RIP
CECILIA?
MAXINE. STAND DOWN.
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME.
THIS KID IS TRYING TO TAKE THE *BLAME* FOR ALL THE DEATHS. HE'S SHOUTING TO EVERYONE IN THE GYM THAT HE DID IT ALL.

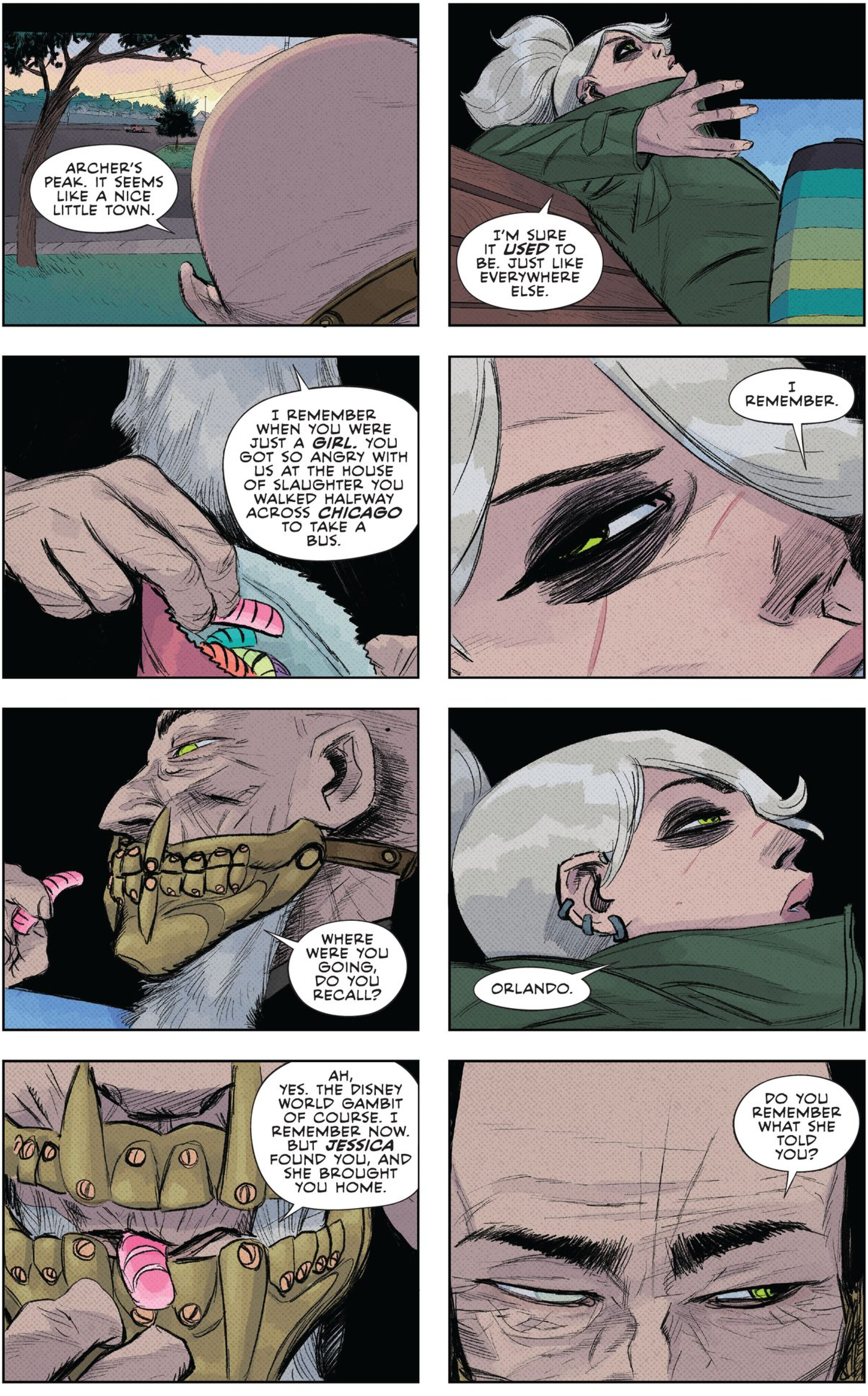

IS THAT SO?
SHERIFF CAVANAUGH. I BELIEVE THIS YOUNG MAN JUST **CONFESSED** TO KILLING ALL THESE CHILDREN.
I THINK YOU SHOULD MAKE THE ARREST.
IF I DO THAT, ALL OF THIS IS OVER?
YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM **UNDERSTANDS** WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED HERE. BUT YES. THAT WILL BE THE END OF IT.
OKAY, KID. LET'S DO IT **RIGHT** THIS TIME.
YEAH.

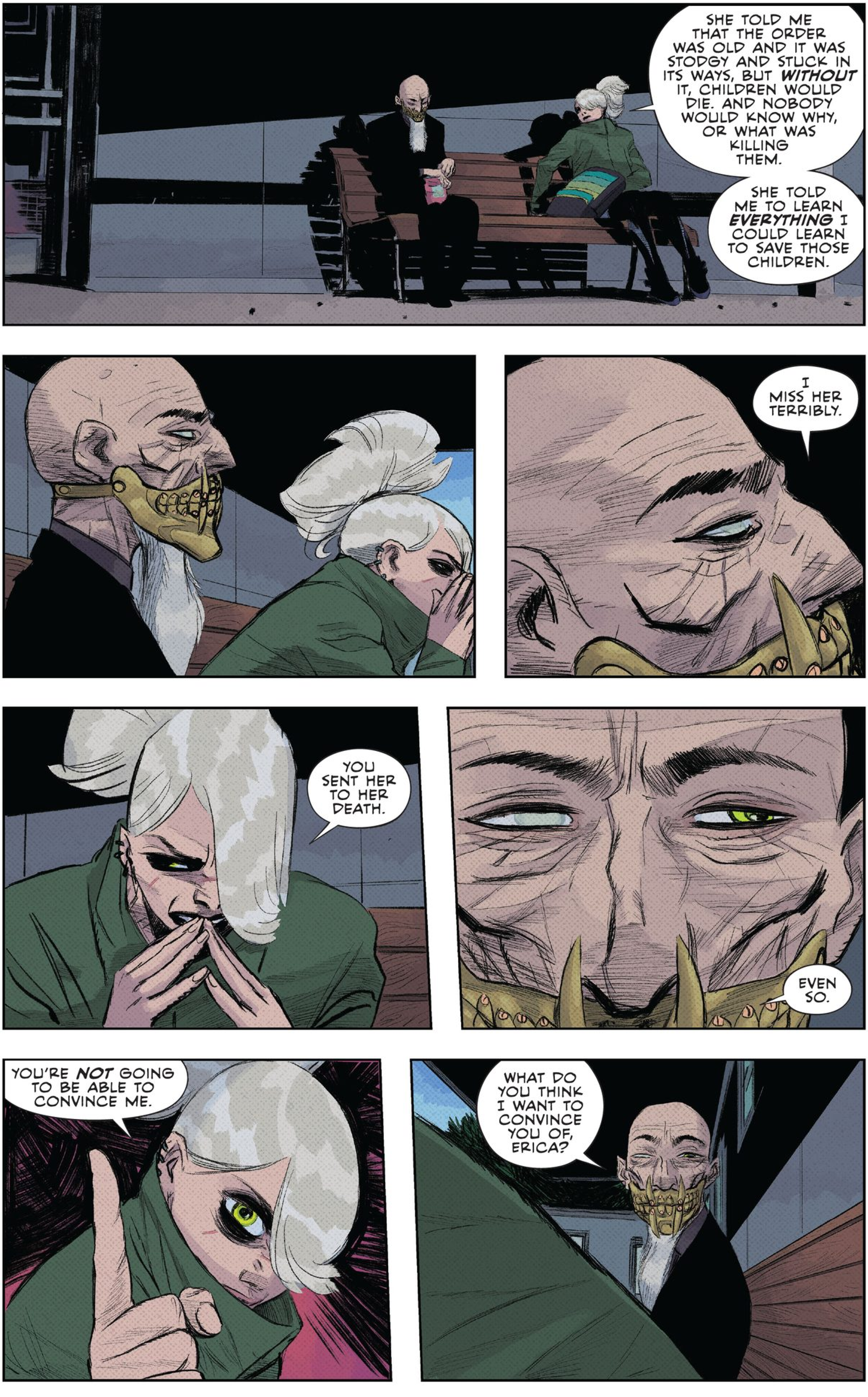

ARE THERE ANY SCHOOL OFFICIALS HERE?
Y-YES.
YOUR SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE A SIZABLE, ***ANONYMOUS*** DONATION THAT WILL COVER THE COST OF DAMAGES TO THE DOOR AND WALL.
IN EXCHANGE, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REPORT THE DAMAGE. YOU'LL HANDLE IT ***DISCRETELY.*** UNDERSTOOD?
I, UH...
YOU UNDERSTAND. NOW MAKE IT HAPPEN.
WHAT THE ***HELL*** IS GOING ON?
THE WINDS CHANGED, DEAR. IT HAPPENS.
WE NEED TO COLLECT AARON'S BODY. WE'LL LEAVE THE REST TO THE LOCALS. DESTROY ALL OF THE PHONES AND CAMERAS YOU GATHERED.
EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE HEARSAY, AND WE CAN MANAGE HEARSAY.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WE CAN'T JUST ***LEAVE*** THEM ALL LIKE THIS...
THEY'VE SEEN TOO MUCH.
AND WHO DECIDED TO CHARGE INTO THIS GYM MASKS UP WITH BLOODY WEAPONS? I TRAINED YOU BETTER THAN THAT.
QUESTION ME AGAIN IN PUBLIC AND IT'LL BE A ***DECADE*** BEFORE I LET YOU BACK IN THE FIELD.
BUT THIS IS ***OVER.***

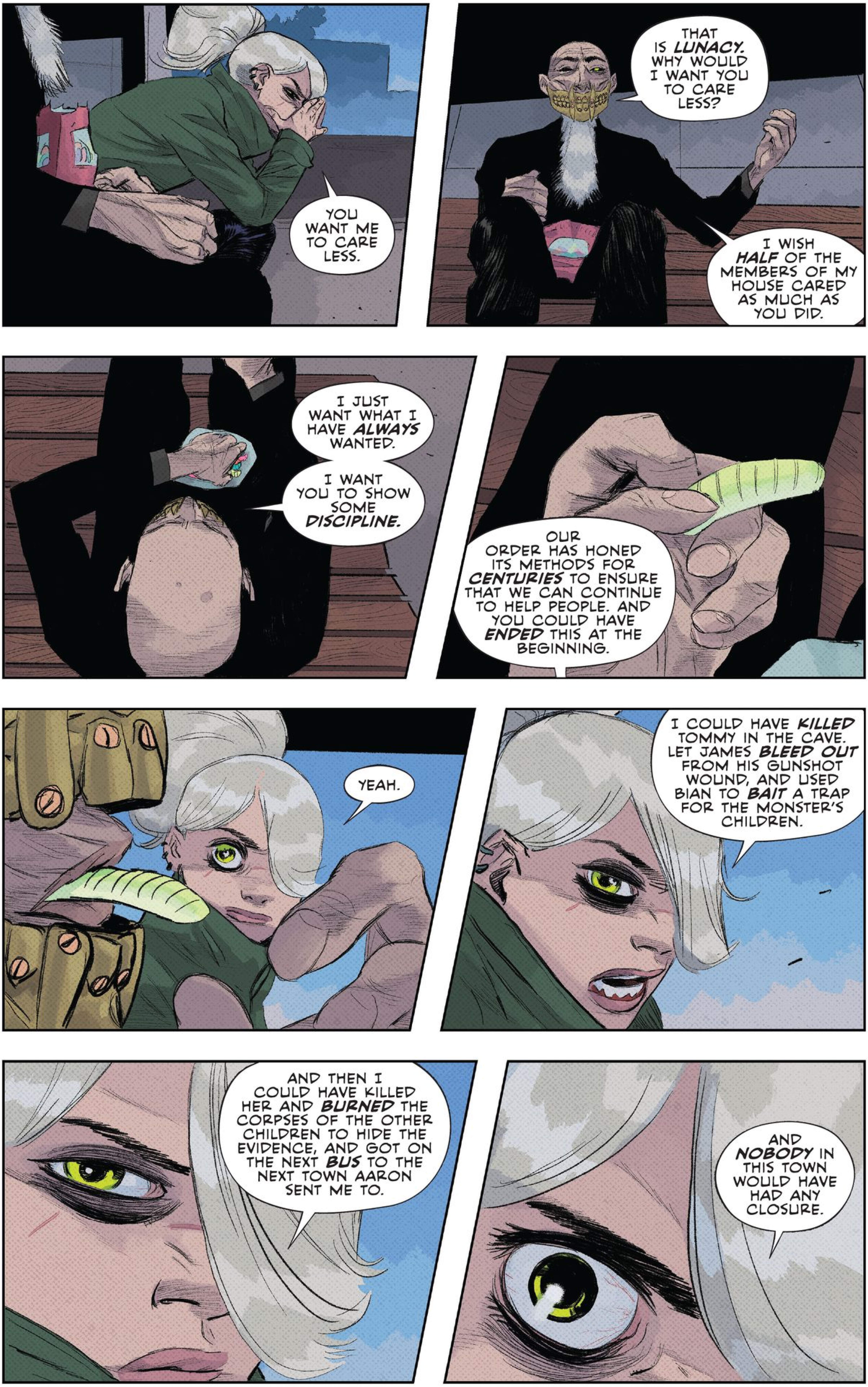
ONE
WEEK
LATER

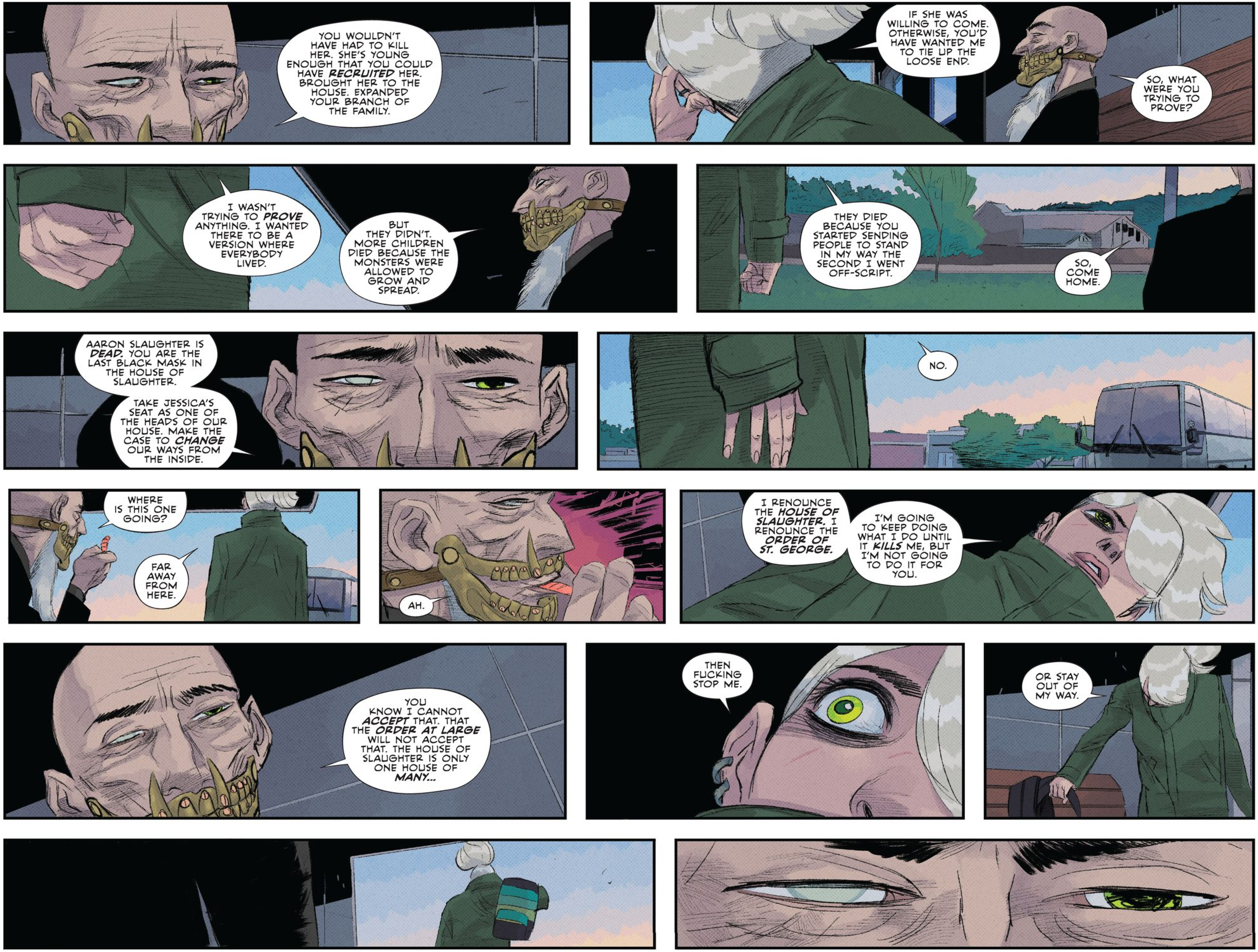

NEXT TONIGHT, WE HAVE MORE **SHOCKING** NEWS OUT OF ARCHER'S PEAK.
AUTHORITIES SAY THAT **THOMAS MAHONEY** HAS CONFESSED TO AS MANY AS **TWENTY-FIVE** MURDERS OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS IN THE SLEEPY TOWN IN WISCONSIN'S NORTH WOODS.
THE KILLINGS HAD MYSTIFIED LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR MONTHS, UNTIL A SECRET STASH OF BODIES WAS FOUND IN A CAVE OFF OF LAKE MICHIGAN AND THEY BEGAN ZEROING IN ON A SUSPECT.
MAHONEY WOULD GO ON TO KILL THE LEAD DETECTIVE ON THE CASE, A MAN NAMED **JOHN RICHARDS...**
...WHO HAD BEEN PROTECTING ONE OF THE ONLY CHILDREN TO ESCAPE HIS MURDER SPREE.
MAHONEY KILLED HIS LAST VICTIM, A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, IN FULL VIEW OF A CROWD GATHERED TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO HIS VICTIMS.
WE CAN ALSO CONFIRM EARLY REPORTS THAT MAHONEY'S OWN SISTER IS INCLUDED AMONG THE DEAD.
WE CAN ONLY **IMAGINE** THE RELIEF SWEEPING OVER THIS SMALL TOWN WITH THE MONSTER, A RESTAURANT MANAGER KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AS "TOMMY," VANQUISHED, AND THE HORROR HAVING COME TO AN END.
MAHONEY'S ARRAIGNMENT IS SET FOR NEXT WEEK.
SOPHIE MAHONEY
Born 2008
Died 2020

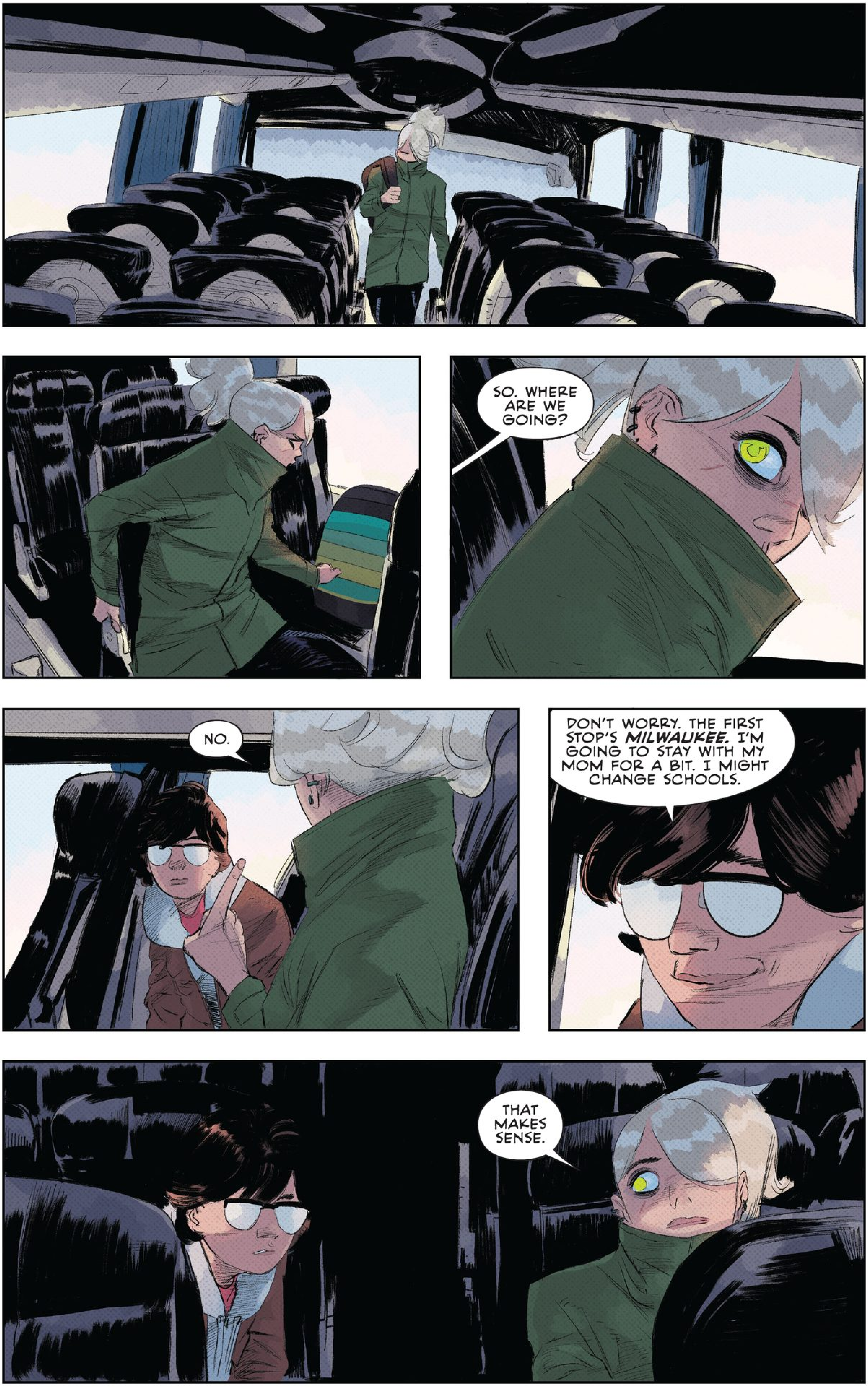

SO...HERE YOU ARE AGAIN.
YEAH.
HERE I AM AGAIN.

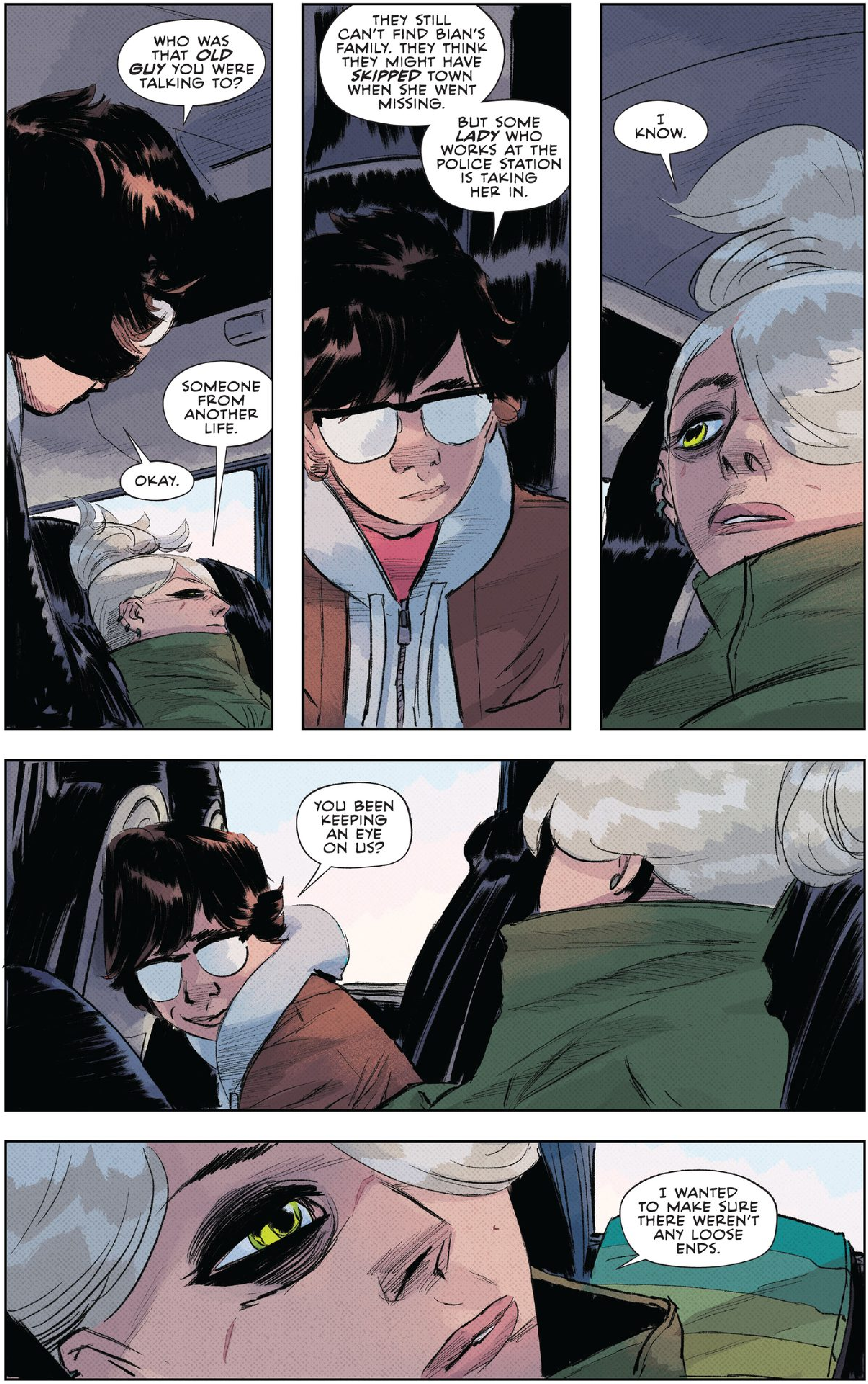

ARCHER'S PEAK. IT SEEMS LIKE A NICE LITTLE TOWN.
I'M SURE IT ***USED*** TO BE. JUST LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE.
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE JUST A ***GIRL.*** YOU GOT SO ANGRY WITH US AT THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER YOU WALKED HALFWAY ACROSS ***CHICAGO*** TO TAKE A BUS.
I REMEMBER.
WHERE WERE YOU GOING, DO YOU RECALL?
ORLANDO.
AH, YES. THE DISNEY WORLD GAMBIT OF COURSE. I REMEMBER NOW. BUT ***JESSICA*** FOUND YOU, AND SHE BROUGHT YOU HOME.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT SHE TOLD YOU?

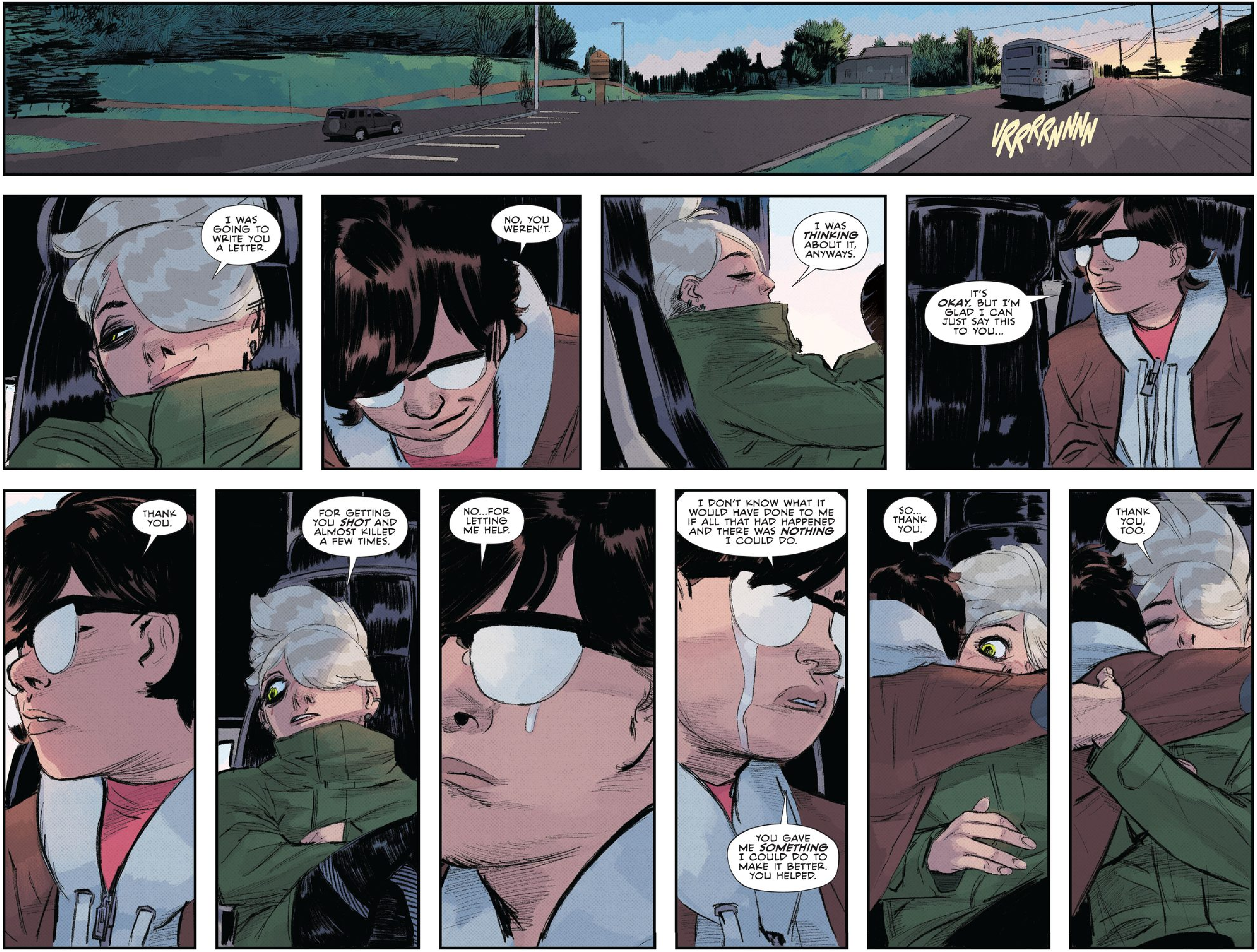

SHE TOLD ME THAT THE ORDER WAS OLD AND IT WAS STODGY AND STUCK IN ITS WAYS, BUT ***WITHOUT*** IT, CHILDREN WOULD DIE. AND NOBODY WOULD KNOW WHY, OR WHAT WAS KILLING THEM.
SHE TOLD ME TO LEARN ***EVERYTHING*** I COULD LEARN TO SAVE THOSE CHILDREN.
I MISS HER TERRIBLY.
YOU SENT HER TO HER DEATH.
EVEN SO.
YOU'RE ***NOT*** GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCE ME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I WANT TO CONVINCE YOU OF, ERICA?

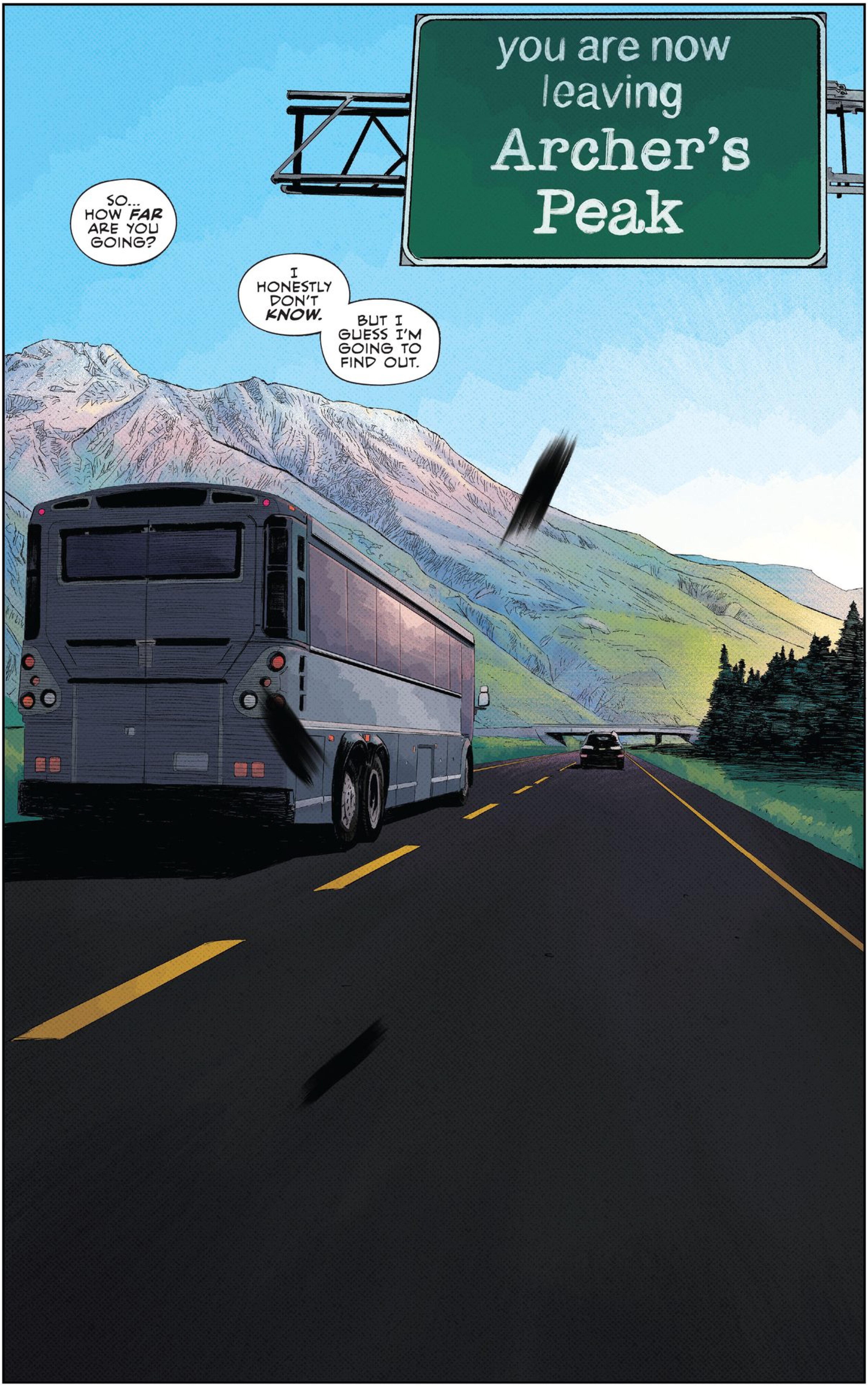

YOU WANT ME TO CARE LESS.
THAT IS LUNACY. WHY WOULD I WANT YOU TO CARE LESS?
I WISH HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF MY HOUSE CARED AS MUCH AS YOU DID.
I JUST WANT WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED.
I WANT YOU TO SHOW SOME DISCIPLINE.
OUR ORDER HAS HONED ITS METHODS FOR CENTURIES TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HELP PEOPLE. AND YOU COULD HAVE ENDED THIS AT THE BEGINNING.
YEAH.
I COULD HAVE KILLED TOMMY IN THE CAVE. LET JAMES BLEED OUT FROM HIS GUNSHOT WOUND, AND USED BIAN TO BAIT A TRAP FOR THE MONSTER'S CHILDREN.
AND THEN I COULD HAVE KILLED HER AND BURNED THE CORPSES OF THE OTHER CHILDREN TO HIDE THE EVIDENCE, AND GOT ON THE NEXT BUS TO THE NEXT TOWN AARON SENT ME TO.
AND NOBODY IN THIS TOWN WOULD HAVE HAD ANY CLOSURE.


YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL HER. SHE'S YOUNG ENOUGH THAT YOU COULD HAVE *RECRUITED* HER. BROUGHT HER TO THE HOUSE. EXPANDED YOUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY.
IF SHE WAS WILLING TO COME. OTHERWISE, YOU'D HAVE WANTED ME TO TIE UP THE LOOSE END.
SO, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?
I WASN'T TRYING TO *PROVE* ANYTHING. I WANTED THERE TO BE A VERSION WHERE EVERYBODY LIVED.
BUT THEY DIDN'T. MORE CHILDREN DIED BECAUSE THE MONSTERS WERE ALLOWED TO GROW AND SPREAD.
THEY DIED BECAUSE YOU STARTED SENDING PEOPLE TO STAND IN MY WAY THE SECOND I WENT OFF-SCRIPT.
SO, COME HOME.
AARON SLAUGHTER IS *DEAD*. YOU ARE THE LAST BLACK MASK IN THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER.
TAKE JESSICA'S SEAT AS ONE OF THE HEADS OF OUR HOUSE. MAKE THE CASE TO *CHANGE* OUR WAYS FROM THE INSIDE.
NO.
WHERE IS THIS ONE GOING?
FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
AH.
I RENOUNCE THE *HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER*. I RENOUNCE THE *ORDER OF ST. GEORGE*.
I'M GOING TO KEEP DOING WHAT I DO UNTIL IT *KILLS* ME, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW I CANNOT *ACCEPT* THAT. THAT THE *ORDER AT LARGE* WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT. THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER IS ONLY ONE HOUSE OF *MANY...*
THEN FUCKING STOP ME.
OR STAY OUT OF MY WAY.


SO. WHERE ARE WE GOING?
NO.
DON'T WORRY. THE FIRST STOP'S ***MILWAUKEE.*** I'M GOING TO STAY WITH MY MOM FOR A BIT. I MIGHT CHANGE SCHOOLS.
THAT MAKES SENSE.


WHO WAS THAT *OLD GUY* YOU WERE TALKING TO?
SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER LIFE.
OKAY.
THEY STILL CAN'T FIND BIAN'S FAMILY. THEY THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE *SKIPPED* TOWN WHEN SHE WENT MISSING.
BUT SOME *LADY* WHO WORKS AT THE POLICE STATION IS TAKING HER IN.
I KNOW.
YOU BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON US?
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE WEREN'T ANY LOOSE ENDS.


VRRRRNNNN
I WAS GOING TO WRITE YOU A LETTER.
NO, YOU WEREN'T.
I WAS *THINKING* ABOUT IT, ANYWAYS.
IT'S *OKAY.* BUT I'M GLAD I CAN JUST SAY THIS TO YOU...
THANK YOU.
FOR GETTING YOU *SHOT* AND ALMOST KILLED A FEW TIMES.
NO...FOR LETTING ME HELP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WOULD HAVE DONE TO ME IF ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED AND THERE WAS *NOTHING* I COULD DO.
YOU GAVE ME *SOMETHING* I COULD DO TO MAKE IT BETTER. YOU HELPED.
SO... THANK YOU.
THANK YOU, TOO.


you are now leaving Archer's Peak
SO... HOW **FAR** ARE YOU GOING?
I HONESTLY DON'T ***KNOW.***
BUT I GUESS I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

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JAMES TYNION IV

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WERTHER DELL'EDERA

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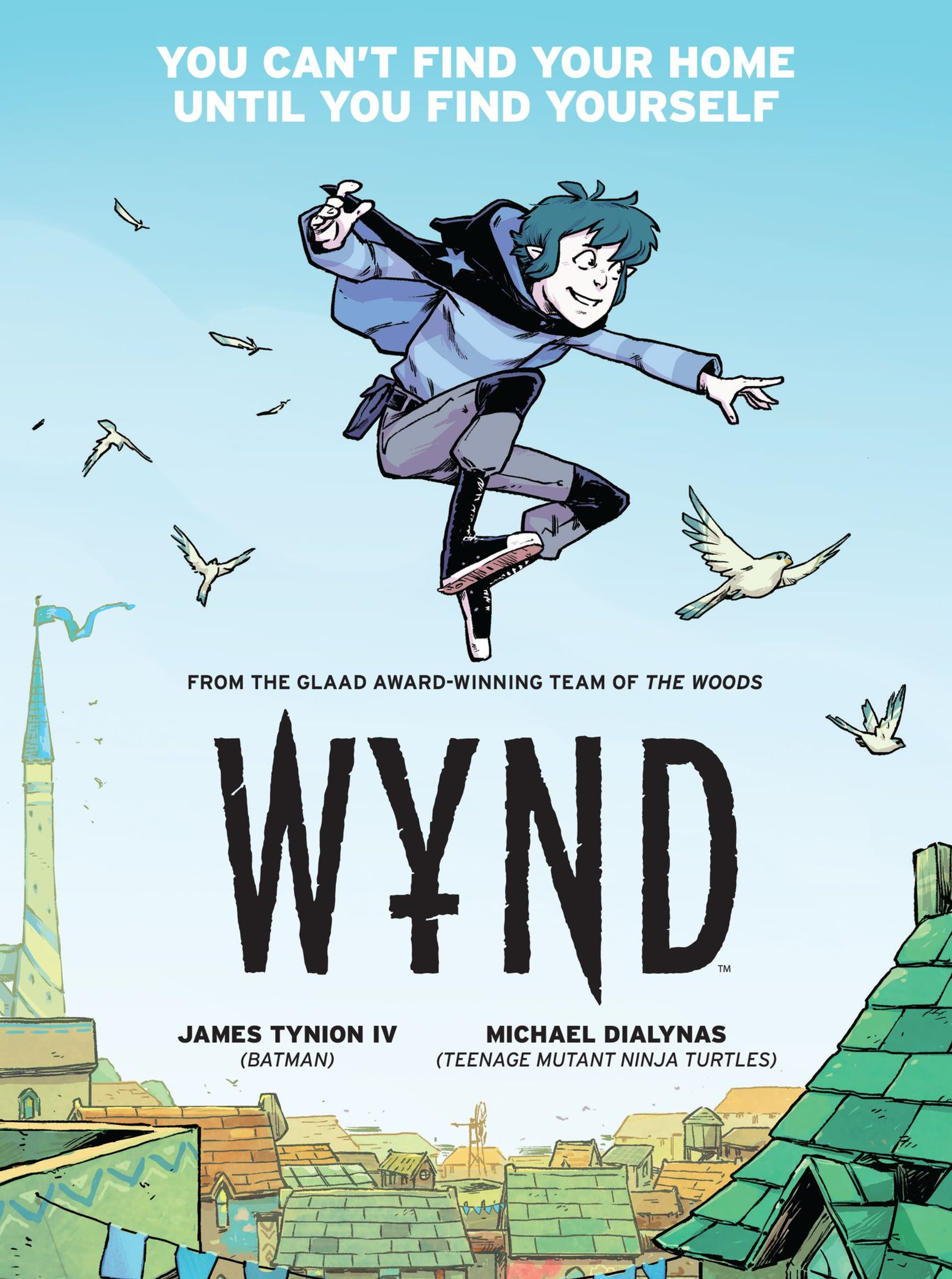
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